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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
TOPIC	Fall Exercises in the First Gds Mech Army Area		
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	
DATE OF CONTENT			25X1
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	12 October 1954
REFERENCES			
PAGES	3	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	25X1
REMARKS	This is UNEVALUATED Information		
			25X1

1. At 0700 on 23 September 1954, a column of approximately 30 trucks towing 25X1
3 field kitchens, and 9 armored personnel carriers [redacted]
[redacted] left the Strassburg Kaserne [redacted] in Grimma and presumably
went toward Wurzen. Each of the armored personnel carriers mounted two
machine guns, a 12.7-mm gun on the right side and a 7.62-mm gun on the
left side. The column returned at 1900 on 26 September. Between 23 and 25X1
26 September, the commanding officer of the division, a major general
was repeatedly seen in the town. Each time, he rode in a different
sedan. 1
2. Between 23 and 27 September, the Strassburg Kaserne was presumably 25X1
occupied by 500 to 600 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets
with artillery, tank and motor transport insignia; and the Elsner
Kaserne [redacted] was believed to be occupied as previously by approximately
200 signal soldiers, approximately 250 engineer soldiers and 60 to 80 25X1
soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered black
epaulets with motor transport insignia. Small engineer details engaged
in the construction of ferries and the driving of piles at the engineer
training site on the Mulde River. 1 A new unit of 150 soldiers wearing
black-bordered crimson epaulets with artillery, signal and motor 25X1
transport insignia has been observed recently in the Elsner Kaserne.
Three details of this unit, each of 30 to 35 men and 1 sergeant wearing
red-bordered black epaulets entered the Elsner Kaserne, and a fourth
detail with a sergeant wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets marched
to the restricted area north of the installation. A lieutenant colonel, 25X1
who was observed for the first time, also wore black-bordered crimson
epaulets.
3. In addition to the soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with
artillery insignia previously observed, a considerable number of
soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets was also observed
in Wurzen. 2
4. The following observations were made in the Zeithain training area 25X1
between 25 and 27 September:

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25X1

25 September. At 0700, T-34 tanks [redacted] left the Goltz Kaserne [redacted] in Riesa toward the training grounds. The tanks returned at 1400.

25X1

25X1

At 1400, T-34 tanks [redacted] passed through Riesa. The tanks came from the direction of Zeithain and proceeded toward Strehla. Seven trucks with 4 x 37-mm AA guns and 85 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen in Riesa.

25X1

25X1

At 1430, armored personnel carriers [redacted] marked by white flags were seen in Riesa; the vehicles came from the direction of Grossenhain.

25X1

At 1700, the vehicles were followed by armored personnel carriers [redacted]

25X1

with 60 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets.

26 September. At 1700, 28 trucks with 20 x 37-mm AA guns and approximately 300 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 1 ambulance left Zeithain toward Grossenhain. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

27 September. In the morning, armored personnel carriers [redacted]

25X1

25X1

[redacted] towing 4 x 85-mm AT guns, approximately 25 trucks with 4 light mortars, 2 x 37-mm AA guns, 4 AA machine guns, and 8 M-13 rocket launchers passed through Gohlis. The column came from the direction of Muehlberg. Sedan [redacted] occupied by a general was seen near Gohlis.

25X1

25X1

Between 1300 and 1900, 40 T-34 tanks, which presumably crossed the Elbe River near Muehlberg and advanced via Lichtensee, were entrained at the Wuelknitz railroad station. In addition JS-2 tanks [redacted] 5 repair shop trucks, 4 jeeps and 1 sedan were also [redacted]

25X1

25X1

Twenty-eight armored personnel carriers [redacted] were seen at the east edge of the training grounds. At 1530, a tank shipment reportedly passed through Roederau and proceeded toward Dresden. 1

25X1

25X1

1. [redacted] Comment. According to information from Koenigstrueck, the fall exercises of the First Gds Mech Army began on 25 September. Movements observed in the Koenigstrueck area indicated that elements of all units of the army may have participated. [redacted] The present report indicates that major exercises which [redacted] involved all three divisions of the First Gds Mech Army, were held in the Zeithain area during the same period. [redacted] it is assumed that the army conducted a large-scale exercise in the Koenigstrueck and Zeithain area which, according to the loadings of tanks, terminated on 27 September. This assumption is contradicted by observations in Grimma, according to

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25X1

which the engineer battalion and other units of the division with the division commander were stationed at the post during the period concerned. It is possible, therefore, that the First Gds Mech Army conducted an exercise at army level which, however, involved only combat teams of the three divisions and army troops.

2. Comment. The branch of service insignia in connection with the black-bordered crimson epaulets definitely indicates that the new unit was not an MVD unit. In preceding years, it had been observed that recruits which arrived from the USSR frequently wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. Since, according to other information, the first shipments of recruits arrived from the USSR, it is assumed that the soldiers observed were recruits.

25X1

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